This species is less abundant than *Oroscena peruviana*. In its general form it is closest to the existing *Oroscena huxleyi*, described from 2740 fathoms in the Atlantic west of the Canary Islands, but differs in its somewhat smaller size, larger meshes, and greater development of secondary spines.

Oroscena peruviana W. Berry, n. sp.

Figs. 3, 4

Nearly spherical, the average diameter near 1 millimeter. The rods of the lattice show less differentiation, being more nearly uniform in diameter, lacking concave areas bounded by larger rods. The angles of the mesh, and hence the areolae, are rounded. The radial spines are more numerous than in *Oroscena bayovarana* and relatively stouter, but all are broken off so that their distal character is unknown; they are smooth as far as preserved and the framework at their base does not recurve tentlike as in the associated larger species. An additional distinctive feature of *P. peruviana* is the smoothness of the rods of the lattice, no traces of lateral spines having been observed. This species is exceedingly common.

PALEONTOLOGY.—*Coleoptera from the lower Eocene (Wilcox) clays.*[1] H. F. WICKHAM, Iowa City, Iowa. (Communicated by EDWARD W. BERRY.)

Some time ago I received from Professor Edward W. Berry of the Johns Hopkins University, a small lot of coleopterous elytra from the Wilcox clays of lower Eocene time. As no Coleoptera are described from this horizon it has seemed worth while to characterize and name the material, even though it is insufficient to give any definite clues as to the climatic or other local conditions.[2]

Genus ELATER Linnæus

Elater berryi Wickham, n. sp.

Fig. 3

Represented by an elytron, 8.50 millimeters long and 2.75 millimeters wide, the extreme tip lacking. It is of narrow form, the sides sub-parallel for the major part of the length, the tapered portion so much injured that its proportionate size can not be measured. The surface is moderately finely

[1] Received March 1, 1929.

[2] It has always been a subject for comment that the remains of insects were so scarce in the fine grained clays of the Wilcox group which contain such a wealth of delicate plant material. In 1925 Dr. Collins described the wing of a termite (R. E. L. COLLINS. Am. Journ. Sci. 9: 406–410. *fig. 2*, 1925) and in 1927 I described the cases of a caddis worm (EDWARD W. BERRY. Proc. U. S. Natl. Museum, 71, Art. 14. 1927) from these beds Professor Wickham has now described the few beetle elytra resulting from very intensive collecting during which over 500 species of plants have been obtained. We have a single wing of some hymenopterous form and other caddis cases which have not yet been described. *E. W. B.*

and evenly 8-striate, the striae finely but distinctly and regularly punctate. The interspaces are slightly convex and appear to have been minutely punctulate, but this may be due to the texture of the matrix.

Holotype.—Cat. No. 80474 U. S. Natl. Museum.

The specimen bears the collectors number 35, and was obtained 4 miles north of Jackson, Madison County, Tennessee. I think that there can be no doubt of its being an Elaterid. The generic name is used in the Linnæan sense.

Genus MELOLONTHITES Heer

Melolonthites collinsi Wickham, n. sp.

Fig. 4

Described from an elytron, 14.65 millimeters long by 6.05 millimeters wide, strongly declivous at the apex, with well defined outer marginal bead and two obtuse discal costae, outlined by punctures, similar to those of many recent species of Phyllophaga. The sutural margin is also beaded. Within it are two obtuse approximate costae, more distinct on the posterior half of length, where their limiting striae are finely punctured. The whole elytral surface is finely and diffusely punctate.

Holotype and paratypes.—Cat. No. 80475, 80476 U. S. Natl. Museum.

The holotype is marked with the collectors number 34, and is from the Holcomb Property, Henry County, Tennessee. The paratype shows both obverse and reverse, and is from 4 miles north of Jackson, Madison County, Tennessee. The specific name refers to the collector of the Henry County specimen, Dr. R. E. L. Collins.

I have looked in vain for anything in recent Scarabæidæ which will exactly match the costal arrangement and come back, after each search, to Phyllophaga, which the elytra strongly suggest. Probably the best course is to put it in Heer's genus *Melolonthites*, since there is too little shown to support a new generic name.

Genus OTIORHYNCHITES Heer

Otiorhynchites wilcoxianus Wickham, n. sp.

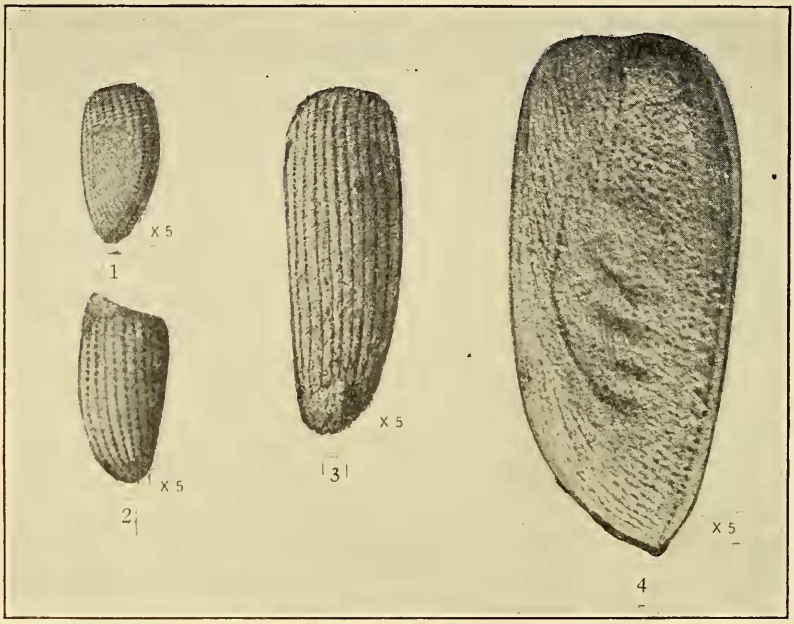
Figs. 1, 2

Based upon an elytron, 4.25 millimeters long by 2.35 millimeters wide, strongly convex, moderately arcuately narrowing to the tip. Surface regularly and rather deeply striate. Striae evenly and coarsely punctate for the entire length. Interspaces convex. The punctures of the external striae appear to be larger than those near the suture and on the discal region. However, the disk has been injured by abrasion so that the sculpture is effaced over a considerable area.

Holotype and paratypes.—Cat. Nos. 80472, 80473, U. S. Natl. Museum.

The holotype carries the collectors number 33, and is from the pits of the Texarkana Pipe Co., Miller County, Arkansas. A second specimen, designated as the paratype, is from the Bradley Pit, Henry County, Tennessee.

This appears to have been an Otiorhynchid weevil of the general form of the recent *Geoderces incomptus* Horn, but may have been even stouter. It is not possible to determine how much of the elytral width is due to flattening out of the original convexity.



Figures 1, 2.—*Otiorhynchites wilcoxianus* Wickham, n. sp., ×5
Figure 3.—*Elater berryi* Wickham, n. sp., ×5
Figure 4.—*Melolonthites collinsi* Wickham, n. sp. ×5

PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

983D MEETING

The 983d meeting was held at the Cosmos Club, January 5, 1929, President ADAMS presiding.

Program: Address of the retiring president, Dr. PAUL R. HEYL: *The lingering dryad.* (This JOURN. **19**: 73–84. 1929.)

984TH MEETING

The 984th meeting was held at the Naval Observatory by invitation of the Superintendent, Capt. C. S. FREEMAN, on January 19, 1929. No formal proceedings were followed, but the members and guests were divided into four parties to inspect the various instruments and the exhibits illustrating the methods of computation and reduction of observations. Through the courteous attention of the guides and attendants, the work of this excellent scientific institution was vividly pictured to those present. All were grateful for such an opportunity on an ideal night.